

family, joining both his father and sister in holding staff positions in the U.S. Senate. Mark began his Senate career in 1969. He worked his way up the ranks in a number of jobs, starting first as an elevator operator, then as an enrolling clerk, and finally capping his career as the Senate journal clerk.

Those of us who knew him admired his tireless and cheerful dedication to this body. Often he would be the last one to leave his office at night and the first to arrive in the morning, no matter how late the previous session had ended. He truly loved his job, but due to health reasons, he resigned in 1997.

Mark was born in Washington. He grew up in Rockville and graduated from Richard Montgomery High School. Attending night school while maintaining his full-time Senate duties, he received a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in American history from the University of Maryland. He served as a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve for many years.

Mark Lacovara passed away on October 3, 2006. Mark was the son of the late John Lacovara, administrative assistant to the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and Mrs. Patricia Lacovara Ingold of Springfield. My colleagues join me in extending our deepest sympathy to her and Mark's sisters, Dale Monno, a retired lieutenant with the Capitol Police, and Joyce. He will be missed by all of his friends in the Senate.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOB MCGOWAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Bob McGowan, the Washoe County assessor. After more than 24 years in office, Bob will retire this year as the longest serving elected department head in the county. His personable demeanor and dedication to service will be missed.

Bob has been a resident of Nevada for more than 38 years. After working in the Nevada Attorney General's office, Bob made the first of many successful runs for elected office. In 1982, the citizens of Washoe County elected him as their county assessor. For more than two decades, Bob has presided over the growth of Washoe County. From the rising real estate values at Lake Tahoe to the rapid development in the city of Reno, Bob has sought to provide fairness for Washoe County residents.

Most importantly, Bob has never forgotten that the goal of elected office is service. After his election in 2002, he told the Reno-Gazette Journal: "From the first day I went in office, we've always been a public service organization, not just a property appraisal." Under Bob's guidance, the assessor's office has become more responsive to Washoe County Residents. For example, Bob moved the assessor's office into the digital age, and residents of Washoe County can now access many forms online. Bob has also worked to save the taxpayers money, trimming his own budget to return more than \$2

million to the Washoe County general fund.

As the county assessor, Bob has always been in tune with the issues of Washoe County. He has navigated controversies over rising property values with ease, taking the time to talk with people he serves. To this day, residents are amazed that Bob is so approachable and accessible. He can quickly put a visitor at ease with his humble demeanor and his frequent jokes. In fact, I cannot recall a time that I have met with Bob when he hasn't told me a funny anecdote or story.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bob is a dedicated part of his community. He has served as president for Habitat for Humanity and as an executive board member of the alumni organization for the University of Nevada, Reno. Additionally, as the president of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful organization, he led an effort to protect the pristine areas surrounding Lake Tahoe. While working to improve Washoe County, Bob also raised three wonderful children in Reno. A few years ago, I had the privilege to host his daughter Megan in my Washington office as an intern.

Mr. President, Bob McGowan has been an important part of northern Nevada for more than two decades. His retirement will leave large shoes to fill, but I am confident that Bob will continue to improve Washoe County for many years to come. It is my great pleasure to offer my congratulations to Bob and the McGowan family.

#### TRIBUTE TO RALPH E. WALZ

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I recognize the outstanding service of a remarkable Kentuckian, Mr. Ralph E. Walz. Mr. Walz is the executive liaison officer for the Louisville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He will retire from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on January 3, 2007, with over 34 years of dedicated service to our Nation as a member of the U.S. Army (1969–1972) and as a civil servant.

A native of Louisville, KY, Mr. Walz is a graduate of Western Kentucky University. As a young man in the 1960s, Ralph Walz served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam as an enlisted infantryman. Performing his duty on the front lines as a non-commissioned officer, facing the daily dangers of active combat, he bravely and honorably served his country.

Mr. Walz began his distinguished civil service tenure with the Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in 1977. He began his career in the Comptroller's Office, later named Resource Management, where he participated in numerous efficiency reviews, organizational studies, and business-process analysis. During this time, Mr. Walz was instrumental in the transfer of Smithland Lock and Dam to the Louisville District.

In 1981, Mr. Walz helped develop the proposal that resulted in the military

construction mission being reinstated at the Louisville district, making it a full-service district whose impact is felt worldwide.

In 1990, Mr. Walz was chosen as the executive liaison Officer and assigned to the Executive Office. In that capacity, he has been instrumental in coordinating many significant events that showcased our great Commonwealth, including National Society of American Military Engineers Conferences which included military personnel and civilians from all over the United States and overseas.

Mr. Walz has also been a champion of quality-of-life initiatives. He helped implement the Uncle Sam's Child Care Center and initially served as board chairman. He served as board chairman and as a member of the board of directors for his local credit union. And he was chairman of the Kentucky Federal Agency Tourism Council, among many other volunteer activities.

Finally, Mr. President, Mr. Walz is a good neighbor and valued steward of our natural resources and defense assets. He will be long remembered for his patriotism, leadership, mentorship of others, and service to his Nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. On the occasion of his retirement, I wish to extend my best wishes to Mr. Ralph Walz, his wife, Mary Lou, and their children, Matthew (Matt) and Jake, and I ask my colleagues to salute this esteemed Kentuckian.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID MORGAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great Kentuckian, Mr. David Morgan, for his service to the Commonwealth and his commitment to the preservation of Kentucky's historic landmarks.

For the past 29 years Mr. Morgan has worked on preserving Kentucky's heritage, helping cities and towns utilize and revitalize their downtowns and historic sites.

On Sunday, December 3, 2006, the Louisville Courier-Journal published an article highlighting Mr. Morgan's many years of service to Kentucky. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD and that the entire Senate join me in thanking this beloved Kentuckian.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Dec. 3, 2006]

#### PRESERVATIONIST BIDS FAREWELL (By Chris Poynter)

Most Kentuckians likely do not know David Morgan.

But they have certainly seen his work.

If you drive along Paris Pike—the road between Paris and Lexington lined with famous thoroughbred farms—you've seen the historic stone fences and picture-perfect rolling landscapes that he helped protect when the road was widened.

If you've strolled the Main Streets of Kentucky's downtowns—and marveled at the historic buildings—you can thank Morgan for helping revive them.